

Answerless Journey

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The Creature

Creature awakes from a coma, finds it no longer remembers past things. It lies in a room which is not large. The room is semicircular, surrounded by pure white metal walls. At one end is a closed door, at the other a window through which it can see a crowd of stars gathering. Near the window, facing it, are three connected leather chairs, empty, dustless. Creature struggles to rise, feels pain throughout its skeleton. In its mind an image forms. Once upon a time, there were three creatures all together. They sat right on the chairs, wordlessly and endlessly gazing at the twinkling sky. But this image seems remote and alien. In a flash it disappears like a petal carried off by flowing water. Creature asks itself: *What is this place? Who am I? What happened? How did I end up here?*

Before it asks all the questions, it hears a rustle behind it. It nervously turns its head to look, sees the door squeak open. Another creature stands in the doorway. The newcomer looks at Creature with a face containing a variety of strange expressions. Then Creature hears a voice buzzing in the room. It's surprised to hear clearly the syllables of "Hello," which are in fact uttered by the guy at the door. Creature hesitates, feels dominated by the automatic, and so replies: "Hello." This startles them both. It turns out they can both speak, and the language unthinkingly slipping out of their mouths is of the same type. Creature then concludes that it and the one opposite belong to the same species, so Creature infers that its appearance reflects its own image: five sense organs gathered on a head, a neck, two arms, and two legs, walking upright, wearing a gray jumpsuit. Creature starts to know itself all over again. This image is somewhat familiar, but Creature can't remember where it has seen it. This makes it very uncomfortable. In its head it calls the newcomer 'Same Kind'.

Next, Creature quickly gets acquainted with Same Kind. It knows that Same Kind has also lost its memory. Naturally, they feel mutual sympathy for their shared suffering, a closeness for being the same species, and immediately discuss their present situation. It's obvious this kind of discussion will not go anywhere. The background knowledge they need for reference has left their heads. Soon they tire. Creature and Same Kind are disturbed and look vacantly at the white walls even though stars flow past the

window.... Time passes. Same Kind suddenly calls out, “Hey, we are in a spaceship!” Creature follows the cry to hidden brain furrows where it timidly recovers something familiar: spaceship, launch...something like that. “We may be the passengers on this spaceship,” it says, unable to help but feel encouraged by the recovery of the broken memory.

Upon this encouragement, it builds the following hypothesis: They pilot the spaceship, are departing from somewhere to carry out a mission. Some accident on the way sent them into a coma. During the coma, they lost their memories. The spaceship is still en route. But what happened? Their intelligence flows that far before becoming blocked again. Another thought arises: Is it just the two of them in the spaceship? Simultaneously they turn to look at the three chairs. Right, there are three chairs in the room. Creature and Same Kind sleepwalk before them, then carefully stoop and sit down. The chairs were apparently made according to the shape of their species’ body, but they can’t find the location of a joystick or dashboard anywhere. They exchange a look, think the world is strange, giggle out loud, then suddenly stop giggling. They think they really don’t know each other and don’t know the situation they are in. At that moment, starlight shoots directly into Creature’s eyes. Like countless fishes scrambling to jump into a feeding pond, the urge to pilot is summoned, but it and Same Kind have both forgotten how to operate the spaceship. In their marrow surges panic and fear.

The third chair is empty.

There is still The Third.

The Third

Creature then says, “Hey, better hurry and find The Third.” Same Kind says, “It would be good if it can remember something.” Creature says, “Even if it has also lost its memory, the three of us staying together and reminding each other might be better. Three heads are better than one.” Same Kind says, “The saying is very interesting. What does it mean? You remembered it.” Creature smiles shyly. It doesn’t remember the origin of the saying. Same Kind then says, “But would it be surprised to see us?” Creature says, “I think it is also looking for us.”

So they set out to look everywhere in the cabin for The Third. They know they will find it, because there is a third chair! This is Creature and Same Kind’s first time cooperating, and it goes very smoothly. They look at each other, both pleasantly surprised, and think that before the accident, they must have made a good pair (this is a memory clue). The world really is not big; soon they have walked every nook and cranny, but in the end not a single soul is found. This they can be sure of. They are not at ease, so they search again. The result is the same. But why have a third chair? The surroundings are breathlessly quiet. An eerie, ominous atmosphere starts to envelop Creature and Same Kind, but they don’t feel it in their hearts, because they are focused on their only progress. It’s clear that this is perhaps a real spaceship. Its structure is simple, like a pair of dumbbells – why does a spaceship have such a structure? They are even sure it consists of a main control room (the room where Creature passed out), three resting rooms, an engine room, and a living room. Of these, the control room is useless to them, because they have forgotten how to operate it. But naturally there are things that make them pleasantly surprised. In the living room they find a large amount

of food, which, expressed in the simple language they know, is 'eats'! Food makes them realize that the ever-stronger sense of discomfort in their bellies is called 'hunger'. The hunger problem is the first practical problem they solved in the spaceship, but soon it was cast aside by a seemingly bigger, theoretical problem.

No materials about this journey were found. No materials sufficient to determine Creature and Same Kind's identities were found. None of their personal belongings were found. So the most critical questions could not be answered: Who are they? Where did they come from? Where are they going? What are they going to do?

In the spaceship there is no day or night. Time seems to flow blindly. Creature and Same Kind are both nervous, can only go on rambling about what happened: 1) Accident. The Third died. They lost key memories (some details they remember, such as the concepts 'dumbbell', 'door', 'window', 'language', and so on). 2) The Third was kidnapped, along with all the materials (the spaceship was robbed). 3) The Third is an important figure, a commander type. 4) The Third hijacked this spaceship. 5) There is no The Third. The third chair is extraneous, reserved for an extra passenger. 6)....

Further discussion of such questions, as usual, yields no result. More terrifyingly, they seem to come from a species fond of discussion (another memory clue). So at Same Kind's suggestion, they come back to reality. At the moment the issue is this: whether or not The Third exists, the spaceship is, after all, in their hands. Despite not knowing the past or the future, they have to control it. This way their future can be bright. An epiphany. With this thought, everything seems simple again, so they start trying. But a while later, they discover it's very difficult. No buttons, no computers, no displays, not a single word or pattern. With no hints, Creature and Same Kind can't even remember the slightest general knowledge about operating the spaceship. This is not a matter of taking action.

Then they realize this spaceship is very strange. Completely bare, with a preprepared feel. It contains them completely, but they can't change it at all. It was made like this, probably an advanced model. "Who is the designer?" Creature says. "It's more like the empty shell of a bug." The bug originally lived on a nameless alien planet. Though it so far has not shown any special powers, it disregards the presence of the passengers. However, there seem to be three basic conclusions: 1) Only The Third knows the method of operation. 2) Combining their thinking with The Third's would allow them to operate it. 3) The spaceship is controlled automatically. In the end, they decide simultaneously to believe conclusion three. Having this guess, they let out a sigh of relief. Boring topics start over like an OCD episode. Same Kind believes that they are carrying out a serious mission. It says: "Do you think we were ineffective idlers before? I think there is no way. Look at this spaceship, this journey. I think we must have gone through stringent training and selection before. This journey has an important mission."

"Not necessarily," Creature replies. "Perhaps we are two fugitives, two experimental animals." In fact, in its heart it is thinking the same thing Same Kind is. It is interested in this creature. Its life and its own must have overlapped greatly. Not some fugitive, it may have been its dearest or closest friend. But overnight good friends no longer recognize each other's faces. Creature shakes its head, denying this is a common phenomenon in the world they originally lived in.

“That actually is possible.” Same Kind picks up the thread of Creature’s conversation with a smile and interrupting Creature’s contemplation, which somehow makes Creature feel a little unhappy. Same Kind continues, “But, it’s also possible that there is only one fugitive. The other one is a policeman, on board to catch the fugitive. Also, there is only one experimental animal, the other is a scientist. Such combinations make good partners, too.”

Creature just smiles, pats Same Kind’s shoulder, and says, “That’s really funny. Fortunately we don’t remember anything, otherwise one of us would be in trouble, brother.”

Same Kind pushes its hand away and says, “Hey, be serious. Think it over carefully. I don’t know you at all, and for no reason I have to trust you. Let me ask you some questions, see if you remember. The first question: how old are you now?”

Creature thinks hard, answers honestly: “Don’t know.”

“What’s your favorite color?”

“Don’t know.”

“Have any hobbies?”

“Don’t know.”

“Ever admired anyone?”

“Can’t think of any.”

“What’s the most unforgettable thing in your life?”

“There seems to be none.”

“What’s your horoscope?”

“What do you mean?”

“I happen to remember this. Um, horoscope.”

“Horoscope?”

Same Kind throws up its hands. Then the starlight outside the cabin, through its fingers, spills densely like needles pricking Creature’s mind. For a long time they both have nothing to say. But thinking about this episode later, Creature will deny that they ever refused to communicate or understand. Now it simply can’t bear the awkward silence, and says, “Do you think there is someone looking for us?” Same Kind is taken aback, and says: “Actually, this is possible. If we were dispatched to set out from some base, there must be someone tracking and monitoring us.” As the boring conversation is about to end, this last idea coming out of nowhere has thrilled them. Then would the one who dispatched them be The Third?

They propose enacting a shift system. The loss of memory makes them dare not bet on anything. Besides, they have no grasp of what is happening or what is going to happen. The so-called shift means having one rest while the other stays in the main control room. Though they can’t actually control anything, they can look out for emergencies and sound the alarm. And the more important role of the one on duty is waiting to see if they encounter the spacecraft searching for them, or other spacecraft passing by and ask for help. Despite not knowing how to make the other know their situation, they feel that they should find a way then. This is the point their intelligence has reached so far.

The Ark

They wait and wait, but space is so dark and quiet, and they never see the second spaceship. Creature and Same Kind are extremely disappointed, extremely angry. Again they look out the window at the starry sky, and the starry sky twinkles. The universe is like a great flood, pouring from all directions into the desolate cabin and its lonely hearts. Again they talk despite having nothing to talk about. *All thanks to language – itself perhaps a form of life*, they think gratefully.

“Son of a bitch. They don’t care about us,” Same Kind curses. Creature says, “Well, guess our world has already been destroyed. We’re the two sole survivors.” Same Kind nods and says, “This is probably the cause of the trouble.” Then adds, “But what you say is different from what’s in the Bible. I understand you mean we are taking Noah’s Ark, but then where is the dove?” *What kind of weapon is the Bible? What kind of epidemic is Noah’s Ark? Why mention a dove?* Creature thinks painfully after hearing Same Kind’s remarks. It vaguely remembers some past events but all miss the point. It says tentatively, “Then there should be gender differences. In this kind of situation, the common arrangement is having one man and one woman.” Same Kind asks cautiously, “What situation?” Creature loses its composure again. *What is gender? And what should a man and a woman do?* A mass of obscure, remote clouds with fuzzy edges surges through its mind. This turbulence clashes with the tranquil space. *Language kills!* Creature looks nervously at Same Kind, finds that it is awkwardly eyeing it back.

“These things can’t be explained clearly, unless you really remember,” Creature says in gloomy conclusion.

“Something must be wrong, but it’s not our fault,” Same Kind says.

Gradually, the name of a planet often comes up more and more in their conversation, but since there are no time coordinates to define it, they conclude it probably has no value and put it out of their minds. What’s more, they gradually remember they have something to do with the concept ‘human’. This is a somewhat terrifyingly heavy concept they sense. But even being ‘human’ doesn’t explain who they are, so it doesn’t help much. Thus they unfortunately give up on this avenue, but...could The Third be a woman? This new thought gives Creature’s spirit a boost. It is carried away by excitement and agitation.

The Threat

In the spaceship there is no day or night. Nobody knows how much cosmic time has passed. When Creature is on shift, the myriad stars still remain silent like kids tightening their faces in a game where the first who smiles loses. Creature falls dizzily into fantasy. Outside the window stars spin, oblivious to time. Do all the creatures out there also grope through their lives just like they do, oblivious of life and death, oblivious of what they are, oblivious of their destination? For a moment it vaguely has a fleeting thought that this is exactly the kind of life it yearned for before the coma – this is exactly that intoxicating, dream-like journey. But Creature is convinced the whole journey has a purpose, it has just temporarily forgotten it. Creature, head hanging, turns to look at that chair. Its heart foams with aimless thoughts: Is The Third really dead? Is it still on this spaceship, or following us somehow? If it shows up what can it tell me? Also, women things....

It suddenly feels its spine shiver.

Creature turns its head to look and sees a pair of eyes gazing at it through the small round hole in the door. It stares at them, for a moment doesn't know what to do. A pair of bloodshot eyes, saturated with suspicion and malice. The moment they meet Creature's eyes, they too freeze. The instant Creature jumps up, the eyes move away from the door hole. Creature dashes out the door. The corridor is empty, no human trace. It tiptoes back to its resting room, finds the interior somewhat messy. Apparently it has been searched. It walks out wordlessly. In the doorway its leg muscles start to convulse. This proves it really is a regular creature. It makes a great effort to move its feet again, hurries to Same Kind's resting room. It's not there. But the moment Creature withdraws, it runs into it as it enters in. Same Kind sees Creature is there, face full of suspicion. Creature tells Same Kind that The Third really is on board.

"You saw it?" Same Kind asks coldly.

"I saw it." Creature's teeth chatter, aggravated by Same Kind's tone of voice.

"Not a hallucination?"

"Not a hallucination." Creature is certain.

"It is like us?"

"I didn't see its face clearly, but it feels like a creature like us."

Same Kind's facial muscles tighten like a weathered meteorite. It says, "Are you sure you're not mistaken? There isn't anywhere for The Third to hide on this ship." Creature says, "Perhaps during the last search we missed a corner or something. It's probably playing hide and seek with us, and someone seems to have searched my room. Right now it's in the dark, we are in the light." Same Kind whispers, "Just like a ghost?" Creature explains, "It may exist in the form of energy, I can feel it. Right now it is probably clinging to the wall of the spaceship, all the time following it from the outside. It is different from us. It can breathe and walk in space." Same Kind says, "You think so?" Creature, face slightly blue, says, "Perhaps it is right outside, it wants to suck our blood. Have you ever heard of the damned souls of deep space?" Same Kind says, "Those are tall tales." Creature says, "But you can't not think of it in this situation! Everything's so unbelievable." Same Kind says, "What do you mean unbelievable? What exactly does The Third want to do?" Creature says, "I can feel it. It's all a conspiracy. We have to find it, hurry and catch it!"

Same Kind bites its lips, wants to take a step forward, but lacks the strength to do so. "Your analysis may not be unreasonable. What you saw may not be a hallucination," it says slowly. "But another possibility may be more in line with common sense. If there really is a Third, according to the style of the third chair and your earlier description, it is most likely a passenger just like us, so what's so special about it? It also has no memory, is also unaccustomed to the environment. If it sees us, it also is afraid, thinks we are conspirators." Creature shakes its head, says, "Are you saying, it is hiding from us, wary of us, suspicious of us?" Same Kind laughs and says, "Do you think a creature in this environment could feel anything else? I think there is no need to look for The Third. Even if we find it, so what? Do we need to choose one of us three to be commander? In my view, just let it be." Creature says, "No need to choose one as the leader, but we can reduce the length of each shift, use the time we save to recover memory." Same Kind says, "But food has to be divided among three people..." Same Kind suddenly shuts its mouth, then breaks out laughing.

When Creature finally realizes that Same Kind has pointed out an important problem, the atmosphere becomes a bit awkward. Creature has forgotten that The Third also needs to carry out metabolism to be able to survive, which shows how dangerous loss of memory is. “If it is a passenger just like us, it should have a share...the spaceship was originally designed for three people. Didn’t we look hard for it in the beginning?” Creature says, his heart both desperately denying something and reconstructing something. It is so terrified that it dares not look at Same Kind’s eyes. “That was the beginning. Lots of things only occurred to me in the past two days. Just assume The Third doesn’t exist,” Same Kind says, sensing where the conversation has come.

Creature admits this makes some sense and also feels its logic is confusing, but the only broken thread is slipping from its hand inch by inch as time passes. The moment the thread leaves its hand, it remembers something, but it doesn’t mention what it is to the other. They just reach an agreement that The Third doesn’t exist, because they need its nonexistence. Then another system is established: when getting food, the two must both be present and make a record. Although they have agreed to deny the existence of The Third, they still add a rule about the protection of the food hold to the shift system. A clear fact: due to their survival, food dwindles day by day, but this is a special matter which at first did not draw their attention. Overlooking ‘eats’ is a very serious matter. When did Same Kind become aware of this situation? Creature suspects that the other’s memory is recovering faster than its own, so for the first time it feels a sense of vigilance toward Same Kind. This vigilance sometimes even overshadows the vigilance toward The Third. Creature tries to deny this feeling. It hopes that the day when food simply runs out, the spaceship will have landed somewhere, someone will tell them this was all just an elaborate joke. Fine if it’s some harmless experiment, part of a plan, that includes the loss of memory. But if this is not the case, what will happen? Whether or not Same Kind is also thinking about this problem is unknown to Creature, but its increasing reticence over the past few days worries Creature. Creature hopes to ask Same Kind to discuss it together, but each time, it can’t open its mouth. It doesn’t think that discussion can solve anything. In fact, they now start to weigh their words during their meetings. Their previous bizarre chats have become a ridiculous thing of the past. The thought constantly surfaces: What will happen? Will they both die, or... one of them die?

Creature’s heart is excited by this thought and coldly beats harder and harder. Then, for a long time, it tries to make itself accept a new thought. Same Kind is right to say that there is no Third.

Because it is The Third.

The Last X Meal

The truth is that in the spaceship there were three creatures in total (or three ‘humans’). After the accident, Same Kind woke up first. It discovered something had gone wrong and so killed one colleague – in order to monopolize the food stores. Then it turned to attack Creature, but Creature happened to wake up. Creature thinks, *If I had been it, I would have done the same.*

Or: Same Kind is controlling the spaceship. It pretends to have lost its memory but actually has not. Why do that? Of course it’s a conspiracy, and Creature is its hostage.

The mission of this spaceship is very likely filthy and sordid. For Creature to make itself accept this thought takes great mental struggle. *Is it a bad person or a good person? Is it a good person or a bad person? If it isn't a good person is it a bad person? If it isn't a bad person is it a good person? If it is a good person what should I do? If it is a bad person what should I do?*

Ugh, why can't it remember anything from the past?

In the spaceship there is no day or night. Time flows to nobody knows where. No one takes care of that. Creature and Same Kind again shyly go together to get food. It's Creature's turn to make the record. It checks. In the cabin where food was originally piled high as a mountain, all has been reduced by two thirds – just by the two of them. The consumption is astonishing. This new thought causes it to look at Same Kind differently. It deliberately takes insufficient food, then observes Same Kind's reaction. When Creature sees Same Kind's eyes it is stupefied. They are bloodshot, seemingly tinged with suspicion and malice. It is startled but appears composed. But Same Kind doesn't wait until Creature catches on or confirms anything. It expresses joy and understanding, gets a share of food and happily goes to eat it. Creature also starts to eat its own share, then it finds the amount is too small. Same Kind pushes some from its box to Creature's box. This unexpected action makes Creature's face burn. It doesn't let the other catch on by putting on a smile and saying, "I'll just go to the hold and get some." Same Kind uses a hand to press down on Creature's shoulder to stop it from rising. "I know you mean well, but we have to save." It says, "I'm really not that hungry, if you need to, go get some." Creature is even more ashamed. It tries hard not to let the other see so as not to feel its own weakness, but in the end its inner feelings release to its face. Creature senses that its desire to apologize to Same Kind is full of disgust. Now it is like a mean, pathetic thing whose mind has been seen through by another. But Creature finds that Same Kind can still pretend nothing has happened, which makes its fear more unfathomably great. Then Same Kind quietly stares at the tip of Creature's nose and says, "When we arrive at our destination everything will be fine. When we recover our memory, I will realize you have always been a good partner." Hearing this, Creature immediately answers offhandedly: "Especially in this situation, facing the same problem, overcoming the same difficulty – what a precious memory it will be. I will certainly tell our descendants all about this voyage."

Poor Creature starts to waver again. One moment it believes that apart from Same Kind there is still The Third; the next it thinks Same Kind is The Third. But its thoughts can't stop food from constantly dwindling and dwindling at a somewhat abnormal speed. They heighten their vigilance but don't find the thief. Before catching The Third, Creature can only assume that Same Kind has stolen the food during his shift. It starts to spy on it. Creature observes it working through the small round holes in the door of the main control room. Several times in a row it finds that it is very honest – its back radiates concern for danger. It stares at empty space very attentively, which is so touching. Whenever this happens, Creature realizes that he is blaming the wrong person, but at the same time it fervently hopes it will steal food. The lack of a criminal on the spaceship this cannot prove the other is law-abiding. Creature slaps its thigh, knows it has reached another epiphany. But Same Kind's nonchalance unsettles it in the end. *Does it know it is spying? And would it in turn spy on it, or has it long since*

begun to spy on it? Creature thinks wildly. Its mind goes back and forth. Suddenly the feeling of homesickness surges up. It remembers itself in the previous world, it wasn't so voracious.

The Mistake

In the spaceship there is no day or night. Time flows like a river that never returns. The spaceship still keeps to its stubborn journey without end. Creature and Same Kind both become more silent and bored. They have long ceased to mention The Third, but they seem to have the same premonition: the mysterious Third will soon appear and lay down its hand. Good or bad, the truth will come out. Unfortunately, at this critical juncture Same Kind finds out Creature is watching it. This breaks all their agreements.

It turns its head, directly meets Creature's eyes through the door hole – the same situation that Creature and The Third were in before. Same Kind can't see Creature's entire face, just like the eye contact between Creature and The Third. Same Kind may think it has run into The Third. It is obviously a little anxious and stiff. Then it starts to rise slowly from the chair, which takes a surprisingly long time, unlike the last time when Creature suddenly jumped up. Same Kind starts to walk toward Creature in a strange, stately manner. It's the latter's turn to stiffen up. Behind Same Kind, ominous stars offset its funny body. Creature searches for words of explanation while thinking there is still enough time to run away, but some force fixes it in place, nails it to the spot. Creature knows that its own eyes must be bloodshot and saturated with suspicion and malice, because it sees that as Same Kind approaches, it gradually turns away from its gaze, and its footsteps slow down shakily. Creature believes that so far Same Kind hasn't recognized it yet, it still has time to go. Same Kind walks to the door and stops, holds out a hand. Creature anticipates with horror that it will grab the doorknob, but the hand suddenly stops in midair, becomes a stiff stick. Same Kind's forehead is oozing sweat. In the blink of an eye, the body which has gone through constant mental torment on this long journey completely collapses in front of Creature, falls. This is truly outside of Creature's expectations. It immediately pushes the door open with a bang and enters to help Same Kind up, pats its back. A while later, it opens its eyes.

"You're nuts. If I die, you'll only die faster!" Same Kind screams, the terrifying whites of its eyes exposed. It shoves Creature away, assuming Creature wants to harm it. Creature yells, "Hey, do you know who I am?" But Same Kind closes its eyes, shakes its head. Creature hesitates. Finally, it decides to get Same Kind back to the resting room, but the moment they go out the door, Same Kind suddenly grips Creature's neck.

"Die! Die!" it screams. "Why didn't you say so earlier!" Creature yells back. "Since you have been thinking it all along!"

Creature is very distressed, eyeballs bulging. Creature can't remove Same Kind's hands, whose fingernails are rather sharp. So Creature lies on its back next to Same Kind, uses its teeth to madly bite its clothes until getting to muscle, and hits its belly with its knees. This series of fluid, connected movements makes Creature realize that it may have had a similar experience long ago. Its body becomes limp and ticklish. Same Kind quickly passes out. Creature turns one hundred and eighty degrees and climbs onto Same Kind's body. It bites its facial skin, squeezes its neck, this time much more naturally. Same Kind exhales foul breath. Creature sees the blue veins on its

neck throbbing like cosmic strings and can't help but recoil. Same Kind gains room to struggle, so Creature squeezes harder. Same Kind doesn't move. Creature thinks it's finished, but Same Kind speaks again:

“Really I always suspected you were The Third...”

Creature's eyeballs start to bleed. Blood drips onto Same Kind's forehead, then flows to the corners of its eyes. Same Kind shakes as if cold, and Creature's urine flows out from below. After Creature confirms that Same Kind no longer poses a threat, it goes to search its room, making a big mess. It doesn't find sufficient evidence to sentence it to death, then it realizes that it doesn't know what kind of creature it killed (or what kind of 'human'), just like it doesn't know what it is itself. Creature starts to feel a kind of desolation after its urine drains. The whole thing was just an accidental slip of the hand. Creature promises itself to really forgive itself. So far it hasn't found any food stolen and hidden by Same Kind anywhere. Creature finishes everything. Completely exhausted, it sprawls on the third chair then seems to hear someone calling it. It shivers all over, looks around – still only white metal walls. The door in the wall is shut. No creature stands against it. But Creature thinks it really heard a call, although it never repeats. Later it has a strong urge to get rid of the corpse to destroy the evidence. It tries many ways, without success. Without instruments, chemicals, or doors to space.

The Mystery of Sex

The rest of the time, Creature eats the remaining food to eliminate periodic feelings of discomfort. The corpse rots on one side, so it covers it with food scraps to prevent the odor from wafting everywhere. Many times Creature thinks it sees a pair of watching eyes from the door hole but makes not the slightest discovery. The three chairs still lie quietly where they were. One belongs to it, one belonged to a dead person, and the other one? Creature has no interest in looking for answers to the question it asked from the beginning, so it looks at the starry sky; it is the witness to the murder. So Creature temporarily sees it as The Third, thus complete liberation. It flies in its own shell. Somehow, the feeling of danger and anxiety persists, and a lonesome feeling also strikes. This gradually forms a weepy yet tear-free atmosphere. Creature can't think of anything to do. At the moment it has the urge to talk to the corpse. When the remaining food is half-finished, there is still no sign of a destination approaching. Creature starts to eat the other half, the food belonging to Same Kind. Then the food runs out, so it eats the corpse.

Creature thinks, It said I would die faster but no way. This one was so naïve.

When eating the naked corpse, Creature notices its sex. It admits that it has discovered this point too late.

This spaceship – now Creature suspects it really is a spaceship – accompanied by its drifting thoughts, continues on its supremely silent, seemingly answerless journey.